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-REMARKS -

In the Non-Final Office Action, Examiner Vu objected to rejected pending claims 19-36 on various grounds. The Applicant responds to each rejection as subsequently recited herein, and respectfully requests reconsideration and further examination of the present application under 37 CFR § 1.112:

- A. Examiner Vu objected to claim 23 for reciting "based" instead of "based on"

The Applicant has cancelled claim 23 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter of claim 23. Withdrawal of the objection of claim 23 is therefore respectfully requested.

- B. Examiner Vu rejected pending claims 19-24, 26, 34 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,198,728 to *Bernitz et al.*

The Applicant has thoroughly considered Examiner Vu's remarks concerning the patentability of claims 19-24, 26, 34 and 36 over *Bernitz*. The Applicant has also thoroughly read *Bernitz*. As best illustrated in FIG. 2 of *Bernitz*, a proper reading of *Bernitz* reveals that *Bernitz* discloses (1) a voltage sensor R3, R2 for generating a first sensing voltage indicative of a voltage across a lamp L, (2) a current sensor R1 for generating a second sensing voltage indicative of a current through lamp L, (3) a connection of voltage sensor R2, R3 and current sensor R1 at junction B to yield a power signal at a junction C where the power signal approximate the lamp power, and (4) an application of the power signal to an operational amplifier IC2-A of a control circuit. *Bernitz* fails to disclose separate connections of voltage sensor R2, R3 and current sensor R1 to the control circuit, and teaches away from such separate connection by exclusively teaching operational amplifier IC2-A having a non-inverting input for applying the power signal thereto and an inverting input for applying a reference voltage U1 thereto.

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To distinguish the present invention over *Bernitz* and the remaining art of record, the Applicant has cancelled claims 19-36 herein without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter of claims 19-36, and added independent claim 37 and claims 38-50 depending from independent claim 37.

The Applicant asserts that independent claim 37 and dependent claims 38-50 are allowable over the art of record, because *Bernitz* fails to disclose and teaches away from "wherein said voltage sensor is in electrical communication with said control circuit to apply the first sensing voltage to said control circuit", and "wherein said current sensor is in electrical communication with said control circuit to apply the second sensing voltage to said control circuit" as recited in independent claim 37.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 19-24, 26, 34 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over *Bernitz* and an allowance of claims 37-50 are therefore respectfully requested.

- B. Examiner Vu rejected pending claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,198,728 to *Bernitz et al.* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,691,607 to *Zawislak*

The Applicant has cancelled claim 25 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter of claim 25. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 25 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bernitz* in view of *Zawislak* is therefore respectfully requested.

- C. Examiner Vu rejected pending claims 27, 28 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,198,728 to *Bernitz et al.*

The Applicant has cancelled claims 27, 28 and 31 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter of claims 27, 28 and 31. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 27, 28 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bernitz* is therefore respectfully requested.

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- D. Examiner Vu rejected pending claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,198,728 to *Bernitz et al.* in view of *publication RD 327100*

The Applicant has cancelled claim 33 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter of claim 33. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 33 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Bernitz* in view of *publication RD 327100* is therefore respectfully requested.

- E. Examiner Vu objected to pending claims 29, 30 and 32 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims

The Applicant has cancelled claims 29, 30 and 32 without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter of claims 29, 30 and 32. Withdrawal of the objection of claims 29, 30 and 32 is therefore respectfully requested.

The Applicant has added an independent claim 51, and claims 52 and 53 depending from independent claim 51. The Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 51 is allowable over the art of record by reciting "means for adding a first absolute value of the first sensing signal and a second absolute value of the amplified second sensing signal to thereby generate a summation voltage indicative of an approximated lamp power". This limitation of independent claim 51 encompasses the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 30, and an allowance of claims 51-53 is therefore respectfully requested.

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The Applicant has added an independent claim 54, and claims 55 and 56 depending from independent claim 54. The Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 54 is allowable over the art of record by reciting, "means for adding a first average of the first sensing signal and a second average of the amplified second sensing signal to thereby generate a summation voltage indicative of an approximated lamp power". This limitation of independent claim 54 encompasses the allowable subject matter of cancelled claim 29, and an allowance of claims 54-56 is therefore respectfully requested.

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SUMMARY

Examiner Vu's objections and rejections of claims 19-36 have been obviated by the cancellation of claims 19-36 herein. The Applicant has supported an allowance of new claims 37-56 over the art of record. The Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 37-56 as added herein fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, 103 and 112. In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, Examiner Vu is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Dated: August 7, 2003Respectfully submitted,
CHARLES B. MATTAS, *et al.*

PHILIPS IP & STANDARDS
P.O. Box 3001
Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510-8001
Phone: (914) 333-9634
Fax: (914) 332-0615

Robert J. Kraus
Registration No. 26,358
Attorney for Applicants



Paul M. Hietko
Registration No. 51,806
Attorney for Applicants

CARDINAL LAW GROUP
Suite 2000
1603 Orrington Avenue
Evanston, Illinois 60201
Phone: (847) 905-7111
Fax: (847) 905-7113

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